CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of predicting a file download time before said file is being downloaded, said file having a size and being downloaded from a first computer system to a second computer system, said method comprising the steps of:

calculating the predicted download time using the size of the file and at least a historical download time between the first computer system and the second computer system; and

displaying the calculated time.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said historical download time is an average time taken to download a plurality of files.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said historical download time is based on an analysis of most recent download times.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the predicted download time is calculated by the first computer system.

5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the predicted download time is calculated by the second computer system.

6. A computer program product stored on a computer readable medium for predicting a file download time

before said file is being downloaded, said file having a size and being downloaded from a first computer system to a second computer system, said computer program product comprising:

code means for calculating the predicted download time using the size of the file and at least a historical download time between the first computer system and the second computer system; and

code means for displaying the calculated time.

7. The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein said historical download time is an average time taken to download a plurality of files.

8. The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein said historical download time is based on an analysis of most recent download times.

9. The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein the predicted download time is calculated by the first computer system.

10. The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein the predicted download time is calculated by the second computer system.

11. An apparatus for predicting a file download time before said file is being downloaded, said file having a size and being downloaded from a first computer system to a second computer system, said apparatus comprising:

means for calculating the predicted download time using the size of the file and at least a historical download time between the first computer system and the second computer system; and

means for displaying the calculated time.

12. The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein said historical download time is an average time taken to download a plurality of files.

13. The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein said historical download time is based on an analysis of most recent download times.

14. The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the predicted download time is calculated by the first computer system.

15. The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the predicted download time is calculated by the second computer system.

16. A computer system used for predicting a file download time before said file is being downloaded, said file having a size and being downloaded from another computer system to the computer system, the computer system comprising:

a memory to store code data; and

a processor for processing said code to calculate the predicted download time using the size of the file and at least a historical download time between the first computer system and the second computer system, and to display the calculated time.

17. The computer system of Claim 16 wherein said historical download time is an average time taken to download a plurality of files.

18. The computer system of Claim 16 wherein said historical download time is based on an analysis of most recent download times.

19. The computer system of Claim 16 wherein the predicted download time is calculated by the computer system.

20. The computer system of Claim 16 wherein the predicted download time is calculated by the other computer system.